ISSN 0712-7774

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

NELS

$1.50

40
JUL

Г'AGA

goodabbey

Photo by William C. Johnson

A Note from the Publisher

The last month has been hectic, but really fun and interesting for me. As you can see from the back cover, Dave and I will be going on tour in October. This idea is a brainstorm of Dave's. He has always been frustrated about the lack of time to sit and talk to Cerebus readers at conventions. You can't really carry on a conversation and draw at the same time. Not if you want to pay attention to both things. Also, not everyone who reads Cerebus is likely to write to us and tell us what they think about it. Somehow, there had to be a way to get to the different areas that Cerebus is sold in and talk to the people about what they read and what they would like to see in the book. (After all - the "High Society" story is coming to a close in about ten issues, so it helps to find out what people are thinking about it.)

Planning the tour was easier, but at the same time more complicated, than I had thought it would be. Many of the shop owners were enthusiastic about us coming when I phoned them about the tour, which helped to make my job in this a lot easier.

There has been some apparent confusion about the relationship between Now and Then Books and Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc. I would like to point out that Harry Kremer is the owner of Now and Then Books, not Dave or me. It's just that Now and Then is the local comicshop for our area. Dave was a collector even before he began drawing, so he has known Harry for quite a long time. Naturally, Harry was the first person he went to when we decided to do Cerebus. I am hoping that this will clear up any confusion that may have remained about our relationship with Now and Then Books.

I believe that I have run out of time and space, so I will say so-long until next issue.

Oh - yes. For those of you who didn't notice.... our Unique Stories artist for this month is the incomparable Dave Sim. (Who?)

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 40 JULY 1982

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Deni Sim

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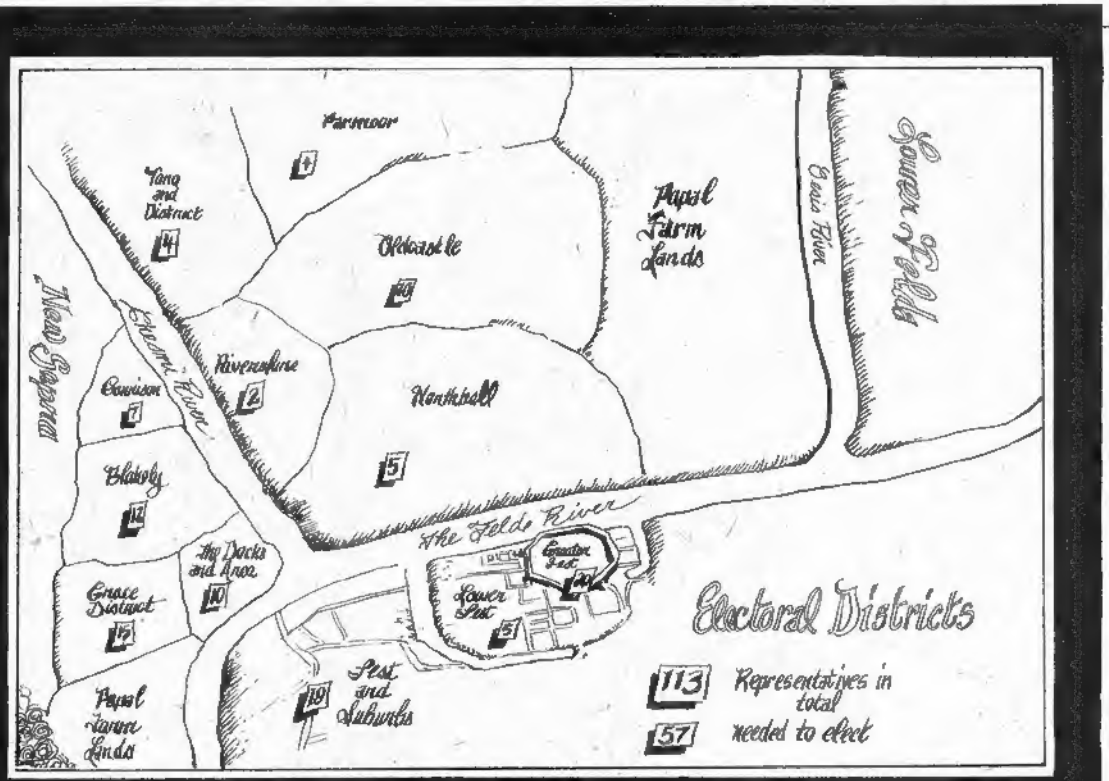
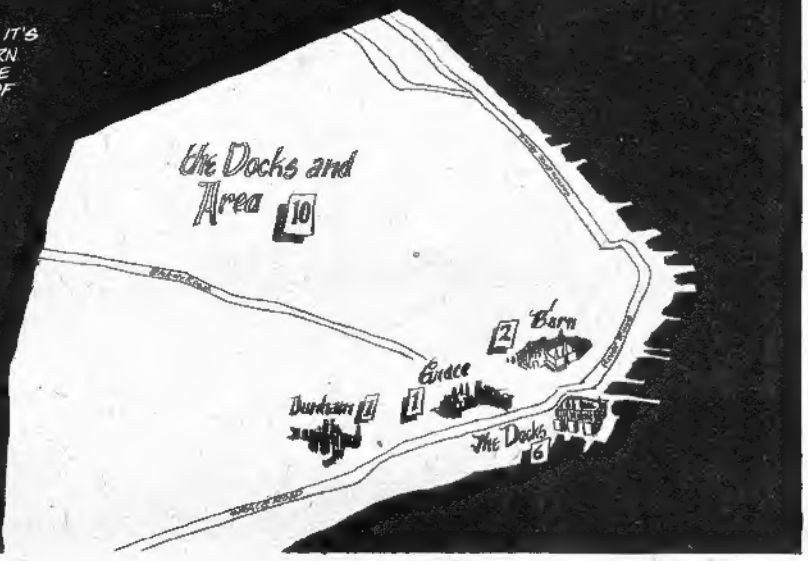
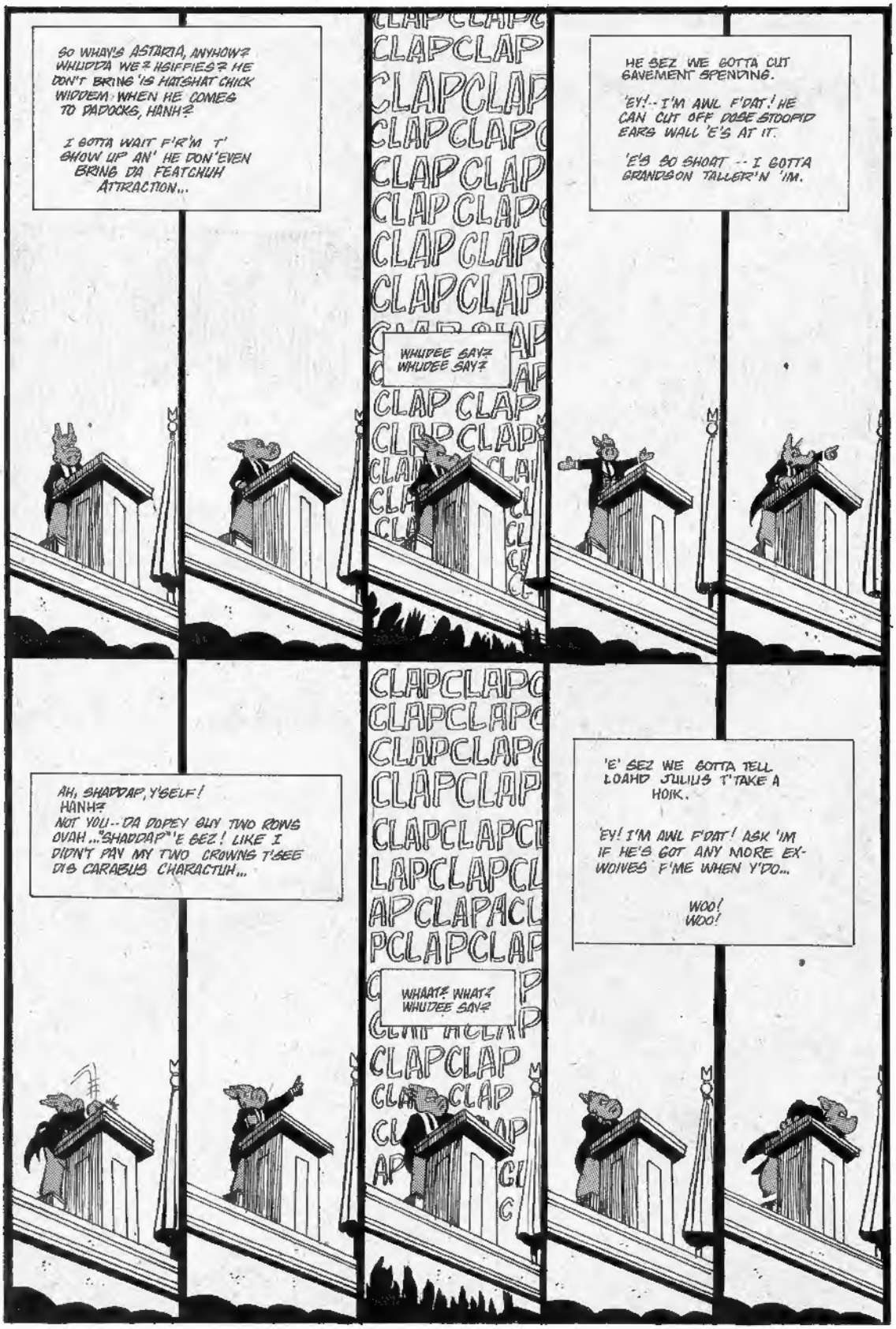


campaign

"OF COURSE THE DOCKS AND IT'S NEIGHBORING TOWNS OF B'ORN GRACE AND DUNHAM, WERE CRUCIAL TO THE PLANS OF ASTORIA'S NEWLY FORMED THEOCRATS. SHE HAD INTENDED TO TAKE 'THE DOCKS AND AREA' AND 'IEST AND SUBURBS'. COMBINED WITH HER SUPPORT FROM LORD BLAKELY'S HOME DISTRICT AND THE GUARANTEE OF ALL TWENTY SEATS IN GREATER IEST, SHE EXPECTED CEREBUS WOULD LEAD A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT"

FROM "THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE 1413 ELECTION" BY SUENTEUS PO.




SO WHAYS ASTARIA, ANYHOW? WHUDDA WE? HSIFFIES? HE DON'T BRING 'IS HATSHAT CHICK WIDDEM WHEN HE COMES TO DADOCKS, HANH?
I GOTTA WAIT F'R'M T' SHOW UP AN' HE DON'EVEN BRING DA FEATCHUH ATTRACTION...
CLAPCLAP
WHUDEE SAY? WHUDEE SAY?
HE SEZ WE GOTTA CUT GAVEMENT SPENDING.
'EY!--I'M AWL F'DAT! HE CAN CUT OFF DOSE STOOPID EARS WALL 'E'S AT IT.
'E'S SO SHOAT -- I GOTTA GRANDSON TALLER'N 'IM.
AH, SHADDAP, Y'SELF! HANH? NOT YOU--DA DOPEY GUY TWO ROWS OVAH..."SHADDAP" 'E SEZ! LIKE I DIDN'T PAY MY TWO CROWNS T'SEE DIS CARABUS CHARACTUH...
WHAAT? WHAT? WHUDEE SAY?
'E' SEZ WE GOTTA TELL LOAHD JULIUS T'TAKE A HOIK.
'EY! I'M AWL F'DAT! ASK 'IM IF HE'S GOT ANY MORE EX-WOIVES F'ME WHEN Y'DO...
WOO! WOO!

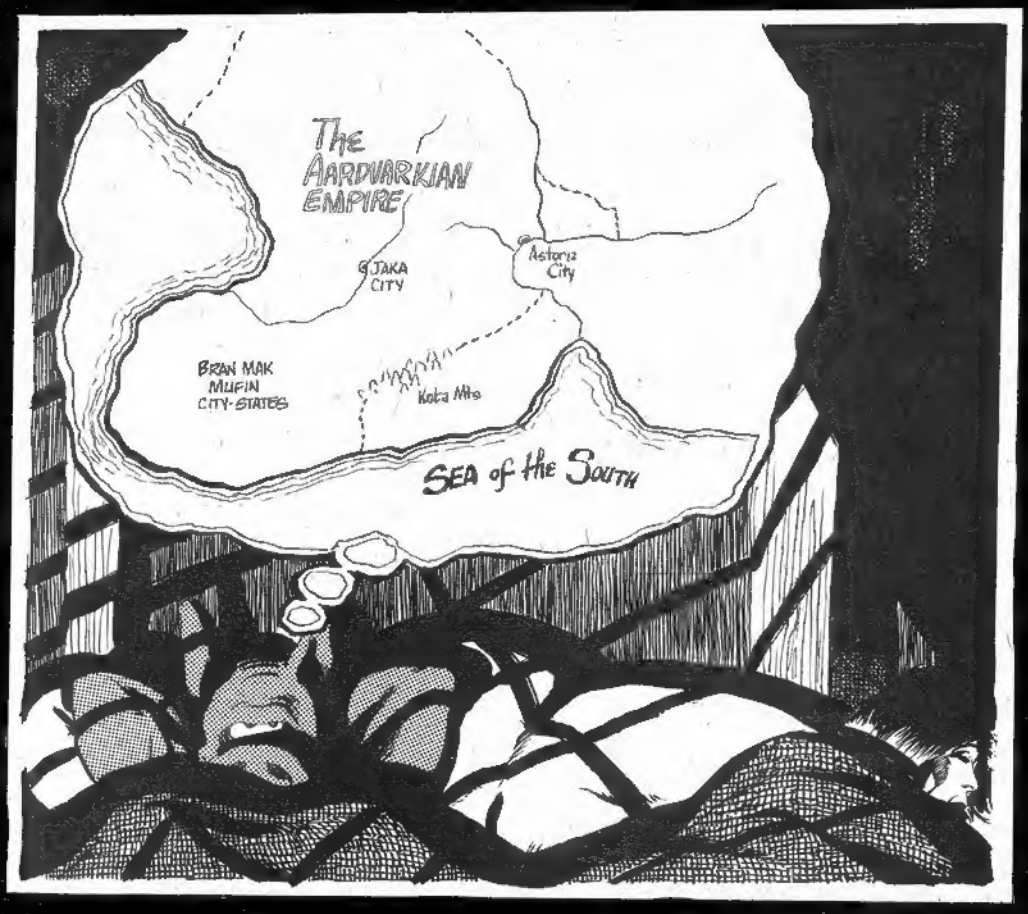
GIT BACK, YUH HERO-WORSHIPIN' VARMINT-LOVER AFORE AH DIS-LOCATE YER POINTY HEAD!!
IT WAS TRUE, ASTORIA NEEDED THE MOON ROACH NOW MORE THAN EVER-" BUT WHAT OF MY NEEDS" HE MUSES TO HIMSELF...
BAF
THIS PART HERE.
LEAVE IT OUT!
EAT FOOT YUH LILY-LIVER'D FLAG-WAVIN' FANCY BOY!!
THE ADVANCE SHEET FROM TEST AND SUBURBS LOOKS VERY GOOD.
DOWN! DOWN!
OUCHIE!! LEGGO YUH CRAZY OLD BROAD!!
HE PUTS HIS ARM AROUND HIS CHICK TO SHOW HER HE ISN'T SORE AT HER
YES, YES, FINE.
DID YOU PRACTICE YOUR SPEECH FOR THE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION?
MMM.
WHEN TH' NEXT BATCH O' CAMPAIGN FUNDS ARRIVE, C'N WE RENT ONE MORE CARRIAGE
SO'S WE AIN'T AS CRAMPED, YER FEMALENESS?
WE'LL SEE.

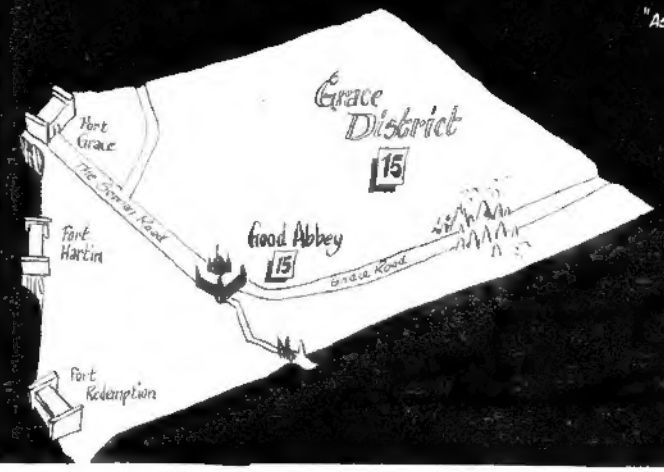
AHA! SABOTAGEE!
AND SO, I GIVE YOUSE DA NEXT PROIME MINISTUH OF IEST-- CARIBBUS DA AWDVAWK...
I COME BEFORE YOU TODAY TO PROMISE THAT THERE WILL
SEEMS TUH BE SOME KINDA...
LEVER.
TELL 'IM T'BE CAREFUL WHAR HE STANDS
THERE'S A TRAP DOOR ...
UNDER
UH-OH

MILADY
M'LOAHD
WALCOME TUH DUNHAM MANOR.
IT'S WORKING.
SO FAR NO ONE SUSPECTS THAT ASTORIA IS REALLY THE MOON ROACH'S CHICK...
CEREBUS -- THIS IS LORD DUNHAM...
HI! H'WAH YUH?
FOIN.
GUD! GRATE!
JUST IN CASE YOUSE AW HUNGRY, I HAD D'KITCHEN STAFF PREPARE SUM...
FOOD!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
'EY! IT'S OKAY. I GOT T'REE BADYGAWDS O' MY OWN.
MUNCH
SLURP
CHOMP
MUNCH
GOBBLE
GLUP
SMAK

WAL, F'ONE THING -- I AM ONLY ONE GUY -- DERE ARE T'REE UDDAH GUYS WHO WOULD NEED TA BE PUHSUADED...
YAH KNOW
THEN PERSUADE THEM, LORD DUNHAM...
I WOULD, F'RINSTANCE
..HAF TA OFFUH DEM SOMET'IN'
BETWEEN MR. BLAKELY AND MYSELF, WE HAVE THIRTY-TWO SEATS GUARANTEED.
MY TWENTY BEING IN GREATER IEST...
I NEED TWENTY-FIVE SEATS MORE... FOR A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT...
THE DOCKS USUALLY VOTES AS DIRECTED BY ITS MORE...
AFFLUENT CITIZENS
I COULD USE TEN MORE SEATS...
OFFER THEM A CHANCE TO SAVE A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY.
HANH?
ONE...
ANY DISTRICT THAT VOTES FOR US GETS GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT
TWO...
ANY DISTRICT THAT VOTES AGAINST US GETS THEIR IMPORT TAXES TRIPLED...
IS DAT A THREAT?
NO, LORD DUNHAM.
IT'S AN OFFER,
I SUGGEST YOU GRAB IT BEFORE SOMEONE BEATS YOU TO IT.

UPPER FELDA IS PREPARING FOR A MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN THE SPRING... LOWER FELDA INTENDS TO HAVE IT'S TROOPS ON THE BORDER BEFORE THE FIRST SNOW...
IF YOU WERE TO INVADE AT MID-WINTER, PRESS EAST AS FAR AS BERLIN
A WINTER CAMPAIGN?
YOU CAN STARVE THEM INTO SUING FOR PEACE.
AYE.
ONCE YOU'VE SEIZED THE FARMLANDS IN THE WESTERN PROVINCES.
THE POPULACE WILL BE DEMORALIZED...
THEN YOU GIVE BACK THE FARM LAND.
IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR FINEST HEAVY CAVALRY
AND GENERAL LE CHAMP'S SERVICES.
THEN, AIDED BY THE SOUTHERN CITY-STATES, YOU STRIKE INTO THE SERRAN EMPIRE
QUICKLY.
THE EMPIRE IS LOSING THE BLOOD WARS.
THEY'RE WEAK.
VIRTUALLY INDEFENSIBLE BY THEIR REMAINING FORCES.
WHEN YOU TAKE SERREA, YOU DECLARE YOURSELF EMPEROR AND RE-INTRODUCE MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE
THAT WILL GIVE YOU AT LEAST FIVE TIMES THE MANPOWER NEEDED TO ANNEX ENOTHAS AND DEHRSION.
YOU USE THEIR NAVAL FORCES TO BLOCKADE ESHNOSOPUR'S SHIPPING ROUTES TO PALNU AND...
CEREBUS!
COME ALONG NOW
IT'S TIME FOR BED.





"ASTORIA SEEMED, IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE CAMPAIGN, TO DELIBERATELY FOSTER A COMPETITION BETWEEN 'THE DOCKS' 'THE SUBURBS' AND 'GRACE DISTRICT.' OF COURSE, SHE MADE IT COMMONLY-KNOWN THAT SHE DIDN'T CARE WHICH TWO OF THESE THREE DISTRICTS CHOSE TO BACK CEREBUS, WITH THE RESULT THAT ALL THREE GAVE THEIR SUPPORT... INITIALLY, AT ANY RATE."

IBID

THERE IS A SOMEWHAT GARBLED ACCOUNT IN ARTEMIS JOURNAL, OF THE FIRST VISIT TO ORACLE DISTRICT. SHE MENTIONS A DRIVING [illegible]

"ONE SURMISES FROM THE ACCOUNT THAT THERE WAS SOME DAMAGE DONE IN SOME WAY TO ONE OF THE WHEELS OF THE CARRIAGE, ATTRIBUTED BY ARTEMIS TO INCOMPETENCE ON THE PART OF THEIR DRIVER. EVIDENTLY THIS PROVOKED A HEATED EXCHANGE. IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT SHE MENTIONS THE NOTORIOUS [illegible] ARCHAIC AFRICANS FOR THE FIRST TIME."

HER ACCOUNT OF THE EPISODE CONCLUDES WITH THE NOTATION 'ARTEMIS PROVIDED US WITH A SUBSTITUTE WHEEL.' A CURIOUS REFERENCE, SINCE A SPARE WHEEL IS NOT LISTED AS BEING AMONG ARTEMIS' PERSONAL EFFECTS IN THE CAMPAIGN MANIFEST.

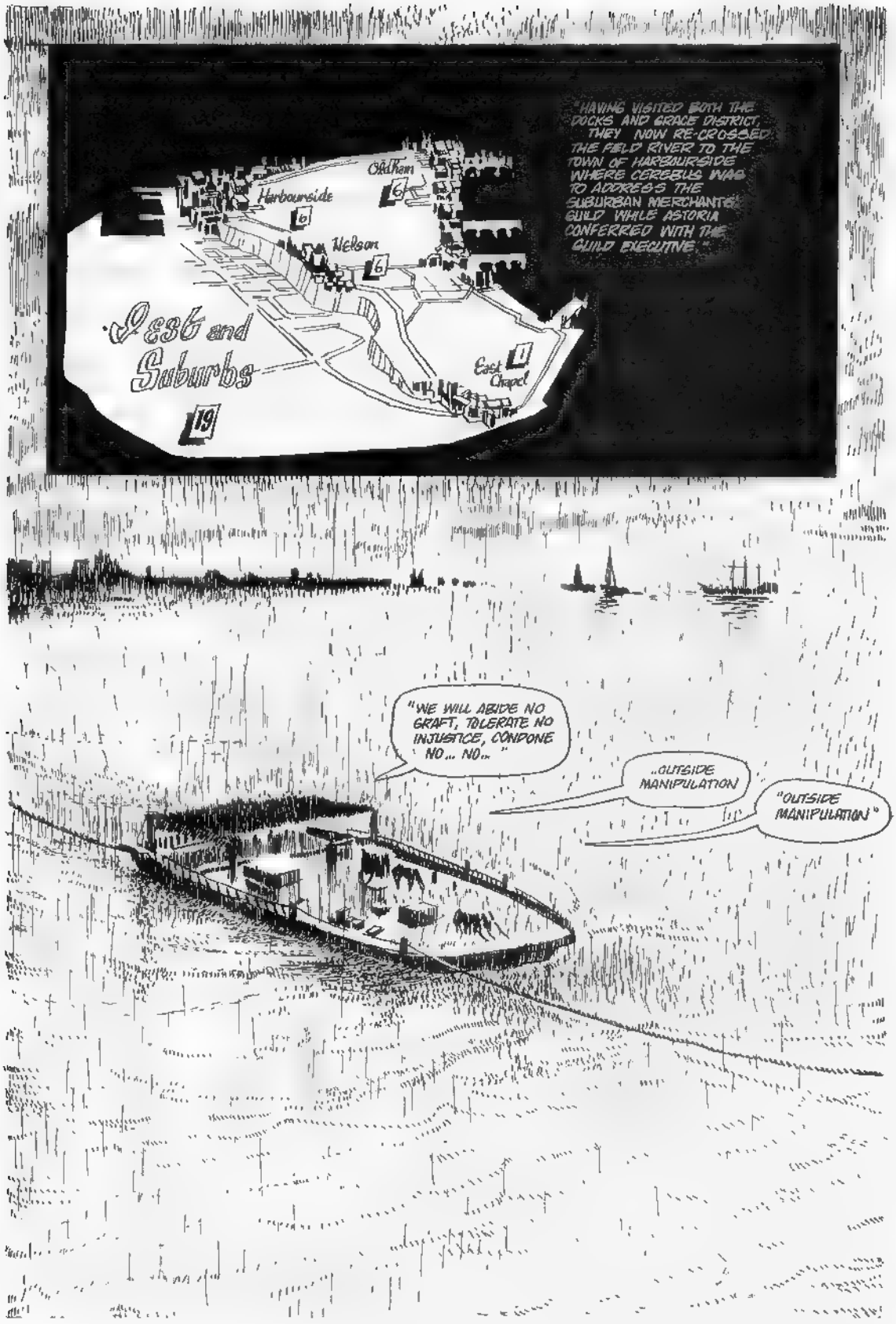
"IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT ASTORIA WAS A DEDICATED CIRINIST AT THE TIME OF THE ELECTION. IN POINT OF FACT, EVIDENCE ON THIS MATTER IS DECIDEDLY AMBIGUOUS. THERE IS ALMOST NO MENTION OF HER FIRST VISIT TO THE ABBESS AT GOODABBEY IN HER JOURNAL." THE ABBESS IS UNABLE TO AID US. "DETRACTORS CITE THIS AS EVIDENCE OF A CRUMBLING CONSPIRACY... DEFENDERS, AS ASTORIA'S DOCUMENTED RENUNCIATION OF THE CIRINISTS."

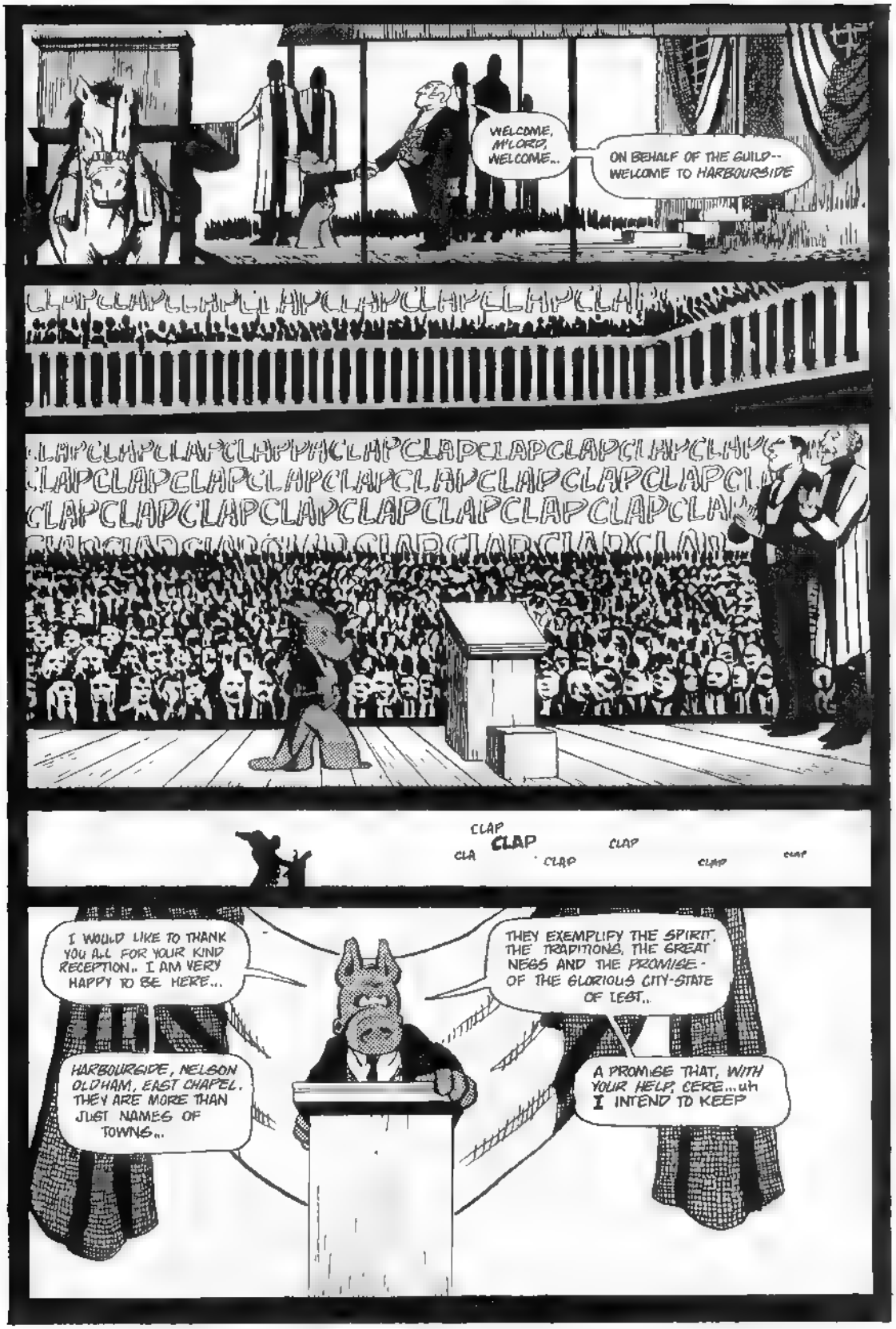
I'M SORRY WE'RE SO LATE...
WE HAD SOME TROUBLE ON THE ROAD.
THE CANDIDATE ONLY! THE ABBESS WAS MOST SPECIFIC.
BUT I'M SURE SHE
THE CANDIDATE ONLY!!
PLEASE ASK HER THEN IF I MIGHT BE GRANTED SPECIAL...

GREAT MOTHER I HAVE BROUGHT..
I CAN SEE, CLAIRCE
WELCOME TO GOODABBEY MY "LORD"
PLEASE..
SIT DOWN
NOW WE CAN HAVE A NICE...
CHAT.
YOU REALIZE OF COURSE THAT I AND I ALONE DECIDE WHO IS TO REPRESENT GRACE DISTRICT
AYE
YOU WILL NOT SPEAK EXCEPT TO ANSWER DIRECT QUESTIONS
AND SIT UP STRAIGHT!
MUCH BETTER

THIS SHOULDN'T PROVE TOO DIFFICULT FOR YOU...
LORD JULIUS' GOAT WAS IN AND OUT IN A MATTER OF MINUTES
DO EXACTLY AS I SAY
WE ARE CONCENTRATING NOW
CONCENTRATE ..
EYES CLOSED.
THAT'S IT
I WANT YOU TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION WITH A NAME...
ONE NAME ONLY
PLEASE DO NOT PAUSE TO THINK
NOW.
WHOM WOULD YOU CHOOSE IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE SOMEONE TO REPLACE YOU AS YOUR PARTY'S CANDIDATE?
ASTORIA
VERY GOOD, VERY WELL DONE
CONCENTRATING. CONCENTRATING
WHOM WOULD YOU MOST TRUST TO MAKE MILITARY DECISIONS?
BRAN MACMUFIN.
YES YES
YOU'RE DOING SPLENDIDLY
WHOM DO YOU LOVE MORE - YOUR MOTHER OR YOUR FATHER?
UNH?
CEREBUS UM...
NEVER MIND

ASTORIA MUST GO...
DISMISS HER, AND ALL FIFTEEN REPRESENTATIVES ARE YOURS
YOU MAY GO NOW
FSSSS
SO?
SHE'LL BACK CEREBUS
IF CEREBUS DISMISSES YOU
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MAKING A NOTE IN MY JOURNAL.
FER THE LAST DAMN TIME
AH DIDN'T SWIPE YER LAST DAMN DRIED A-PRICOT
WAL, SUM BUDDY DID!
AN AH AIMS TUH FIND OUT WHO!


"HAVING VISITED BOTH THE DOCKS AND GRACE DISTRICT, THEY NOW RE-CROSSED THE FIELD RIVER TO THE TOWN OF HARBOURSIDE WHERE CERBERUS WAS TO ADDRESS THE SUBURBAN MERCHANTS' GUILD WHILE ASTORIA CONFERRED WITH THE GUILD EXECUTIVE."
Oldham
6
Harbourside
6
Nelson
6
West end Suburbs
East Chapel
1
19
"WE WILL ABIDE NO GRAFT, TOLERATE NO INJUSTICE, CONDONE NO... NO..."
"OUTSIDE MANIPULATION"
"OUTSIDE MANIPULATION"


WELCOME, M'LORD, WELCOME..
ON BEHALF OF THE GUILD-- WELCOME TO HARBOURSIDE
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KIND RECEPTION.. I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE...
HARBOURSIDE, NELSON OLDHAM, EAST CHAPEL. THEY ARE MORE THAN JUST NAMES OF TOWNS..
THEY EXEMPLIFY THE SPIRIT, THE TRADITIONS, THE GREAT NEGS AND THE PROMISE - OF THE GLORIOUS CITY-STATE OF LEST..
A PROMISE THAT, WITH YOUR HELP, CERE... uh I INTEND TO KEEP

WE WILL ABIDE NO GRAFT..
TOLERATE NO INJUSTICE
CONDONE NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE
IEBT FOR IESTANS!
CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAP
SO, THAT'S THE PROPOSITION I'VE OUTLINED TO ALL THREE DISTRICTS
SUPPORT IN EXCHANGE FOR FUTURE INVESTMENT GUARANTEES
WHAT HAPPENS IF ALL THREE WANT TO JOIN YOU?
THEN YOU CAN ALL START BIDDING.
IN GOLD.
AND TO LORD JULIUS WE SAY
LOWER INTEREST RATES
OR DEATH!
EVEN AS THEY SPEAK, EACH OF THE EXECUTIVES IS WONDERING IF ASTORIA IS THE MOON ROACH'S CHICK..
I HONESTLY DON'T WANT TO VOTE IN A GOAT FOR PRIME MINISTER
HON ENCOURAGING
AT THE SAME TIME, AT LEAST I KNOW WHAT A GOAT IS..
YOU TELL ME THAT'S AN AARDVARK AND I HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT..
NOW I WANT YOU TO STAND UP--
I WANT YOU TO SAY IT WITH ME!
TO SAY IT SO HE CAN HEAR IT AT THE REGENCY

LOWER INTEREST RATES OR DEATH!

ARE THE PEOPLE GENERALLY THIS... THIS...
THE REACTION, I MEAN.
I FOUND THE DOCKS AND GRACE DISTRICT TO BE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC ..
AS YOU SAY IT'S ONLY CONDITIONAL SUPPORT
HERE AND HERE.
CLAPCLAPCLAPCL

"IT IS ASSUMED THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN LOWER WEST VOTED IN THIS LATE ELECTION."
Lower West 5
a BOROUGH of FAUTH 1
b BOROUGH of HARRIS 1
c BOROUGH of MANN 3
d BOROUGH of KIRL 0
e BOROUGH of MARCEY 0
CERBUS IS GOING TO SWEEP EVERY DISTRICT!!

CEREBUS CAN FEEL IT WHENEVER THEY APPLAUD - THE WHOLE CITY IS GOING TO VOTE FOR ME
I CAN SEE IT NOW
CEREBUS! THE MOST BELOVED PRIME MINISTER IN IEST'S HISTORY!
MOVE YOUR STUPID FOOT ARTEMIS
YOU! BOY!
COME ALONG AND SHAKE MY HAND - ONE DAY YOU CAN TELL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN!
WHY?
WHY?! BECAUSE I'M...
AHEM
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO BE THE MOST BELOVED PRIME MINISTER IN IEST'S HISTORY
THE PRIME MINISTER?
YOU MUS BE DAFT!
LOOK, KID.
CEREBUS IS GOING TO BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER.
END OF DISCUSSION
COR
Y'REALLY ARE - A.N'T YUH?
THAT'S RIGHT!
NOW, BE A GOOD LAD.
QUICKLY NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
A LITTLE FASTER
YOU'RE ALMOST HERE.

PLOP
LET GO, ASTORIA!
CEREBUS IS GOING TO BREAK ALL FOUR OF HIS LITTLE URCHIN LIMBS!!
SIT STILL DAMN YOU YOU'RE GETTING MUD ON EVERYTHING
LET GO...
NICE THROW, TOM
THE MOON ROACH CONTEMPLATES THE WIDE SMEAR OF MUD ON HIS BRAND-NEW TIGHTS!!
WHUT'S GOIN' ON? WHUT HAPPENED
SOMEONE WILL PAY! HSSSS.
I THINK IT CAME FROM OVER YONDER ON TH' GRASSY KNOLL!!
E'S RIGHT Y'KNOW.
I CAN'T WAIT T'TELL MY GRANDCHILDREN.

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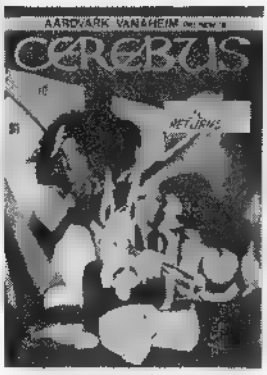

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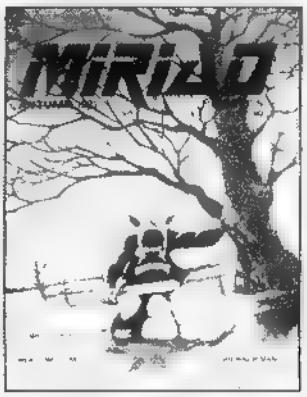

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A UNIQUE STORY

GOAT

the abbess. Welcome to Good Abbey "Lord" Julius . . I would

Lord Julius. Would you mind lending a hand I think he swallowed twenty pounds of ball bearings at the last stop.

the abbess. Blessed Mother of us All! A goat! A real goat

Lord Julius. Yes Ma'am. Finest example of pure-bred one-hundred per-cent goat this side of the Kota mountains - if you don't include my uncle Seymour.

the abbess. Am I being led to understand, that this is your candidate for prime minister?

Lord Julius. My father used to say "Son, you can lead an abbess to understand, but you can't make her think."

the abbess. I am not interested in your father.

Lord Julius. Neither was my mother Which makes me something of a mystery, doesn't it?

the abbess. Well . . . I . .

Lord Julius. You're right. Let's cut out all this smart talk and get right to the dumb talk. The goat is willing to cut lest's interest payments in half

the abbess. Why - that's wonderful!

Lord Julius. What's so wonderful about it? He wants to keep the other half for himself. Half for him, half for me, and you're the little abbess that cries down the lane

the abbess. I'm afraid I don't understand

Lord Julius Exactly my point A goat walks in off the street and drains your treasury down to it's I O U 's. A fine way to run a city-state You'd better wake up and smell the goats or it's burlap soup for us all

the abbess. Burlap soup?

Lord Julius. No thanks, I had lunch on the way over

the abbess. That's quite enough! I want you to sit down

Lord Julius: You win. How's this?

the abbess: I meant on the chair, not on me!

Lord Julius: Oh what's the use? I.m tired of pretending. Tired of the lies - the deceptions

the abbess: Why - what do you mean?

Lord Julius. You're mine! All mine!

the abbess. Lord Julius!

Lord Julius. Your lips, your eyes, your one nostril that's bigger than the other.

the abbess. Lord Julius! Stop that this instant!

Lord Julius. Don't fight it - it's bigger than both of us. In your case that verges on the incredible

the abbess. You're insane!

Lord Julius. Mad with passion! I want to nibble your warts

the abbess. Lord Julius! Stop! Your goat is eating my habit.

Lord Julius. I'll say

the abbess. Lord Julius!

Lord Julius. Well I'll be. My goat really is eating your habit.

the abbess. LEAVE! NOW! BOTH OF YOU!

Lord Julius. Don't say a word. I want to remember you this way - The firelight dancing on your mustache hairs

the abbess. OUT! OUT

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave and Deni

Imagine the scene; a weary traveller, covered in coats and scarves, trudging through snow and ice, lashed with rain and frozen solid. Eventually, He reaches his destination: the Cardiff Science Fiction and Comic Shop. Overcome with emotion he rushes in and with tears in his eyes he clutches the latest Cerebus to his chest. Bliss.

Unfortunately, all you **can** do is imagine it, cos THEY AIN'T GOT IT !!!

A few years ago, while on holiday to New York, I picked up a copy of Cerebus #7 and have been trying ever since to obtain more issues, but with little success. (It costs me 10 - 20 Dollars - to travel up to London, and I think Forbidden Planet is the only shop that stocks it.)

Still hope was just around the corner; five months ago my local comic shop (a small once-weekly affair - but resplendant with friendly owners and a large clientel) announced that Cerebus had been ordered and would arrive on a regular basis very soon. **Last week** the first batch arrived. Not the current #38, but the numbers 26, 28 and 30. The shop owner explained apologetically that these had been sent by Titan in lieu of new issues, for prices he never expected to pay: £1.75 - $3.50 each! Because of this he expressed doubts as to whether he would stock Cerebus again.

Now I may have got my facts muddled somewhere along the line - but I think not. Still, it would do no harm to check up on Titan (we still have no new Cerebus - after five months of waiting).

The five issues I have to date have been consistently good (all of which feature either Elrod or Moonroach - both excellent satires) and who knows, maybe one of these days you may even get close to approaching the brilliance of MacGregor and Russells Killraven. (Praise indeed!!)

David A. Roach
36 Lakeside Drive
Lakeside, Cardiff, Wales, G.B.

Is there anybody out there who can help these poor Brits, most especially one with a great Cerebus fan name like David A. Roach? Yarkies, ho! (aside from Deni . . . I have spoken to the folks at Titan to find out what was the problem. It turns out that a lot of it could be solved by re-shuffling the paper-work here in Canada. I hope that by issue #42 or so things will be running smoothly.)

Dear Dave

Thanks for bringing some much needed joy into exam week. Cerebus #37 was wonderful!! "It's Showtime" ranks as one of my all-time favorite comic stories. I'll never forget the man represented by daddocks.

Once again, thanks for a little joy in a ballbuster week. I will never forget you for it!

Edward Homa, Jr.
9 North Avon Drive
Claymont, DE. 19703

You say that now, but what about twenty-three years from now? Never is a long time to forget (or something like that.)

Dear Dave and Deni

Thank you once again for producing this comic. It's really great. I enjoy it a lot, you do a fine job, etc. etc. (Do you ever get tired of hearing all this?)

Thirty-seven followed in your great tradition: slow pacing, clever revelation, high humour, intriguing adventure. I loved how you slipped that bombshell about Astoria and Julius on the Earth-Pig's head. The bit about the Elrod bunnies was priceless. I laughed for a long time over that one.

Cerebus' convention experience couldn't be based on any of your own, could it have been, Dave? The scene with the two, ah, "people", on pages 12 and 13 seemed to show an absolutely masterful grasp of that type of convention boor. Perhaps you've met that type of of individual? Here's where the numbered questions start.

1. The votes that Astoria was frantically counting on page nine, were they for Cerebus or Elrod?
2. Where is the rest of MacMufin's pigt army?
3. Has Bran been following Cerebus around since issue 5?
4. What happened to Jaka's first person speaking habits?
5. Is the Elf gone for good?
6. When will we see Weisshaupt again?
7. When is Mind Game III coming?

Okay, enough about that. Thanks, very humbly, for bringing all this enjoyment into my life. I loved that last page drawing! How-ah say-how did you **know** that you and Mr. Day are my two fave comic artists? Shang and Cerebus together -- howzabout a full-length adventure?

One last comment. You can't fool me! The fact that you've manipulated your readership into seeing Estarcion through Cerebus' eyes isn't blinding me! Your readership seems to think that Bran MacMufin is crazy, just because Cerebus does. But, in case you haven't noticed, most of MacMufin's comments have been dead on target. Due to his rather cryptic comments this issue, I can conclude that something in Cerebus' future -- probably around issue 290 -- Cerebus will be Prime Minister of Iest!

After all, when this "High Society" story is over and Cerebus hits the road again, it should be useful to have someone who's the second-best swordsman in the world willing to obey your every whim.

Again, thank you.

Brian Doherty
10140-7 Arrowhead Dr. E.
Jacksonville, Florida 32217

1. *For Cerebus*
2. *Still underground in the Red Marches*
3. *No, but he had spies who kept track of the Earth-pig*
4. *The was a device she used to blend into the barbaric environment of Lower Iest and which she dropped when she got to know Cerebus better*
5. *See #39 (Nyah nyah)*
6. *When I bring him back*
7. ***Possibly** before the end of "High Society"*

Dear Dave and Deni

. . . Day Two was a vast improvement over last issue. I find it hard to say why, as it is something intangible, but the difference

AARDVARK COMMENT
P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

is there. I mean, I could point out what I liked about the book (just about everything), but I'm sure that other letter-writers will bring out the strong points more eloquently than I.

On the other hand, I could point at the faults. That's simple - I didn't care for a few of the faces. Period.

Sorry, but that's about it. I really enjoyed #38, but I don't know what to say about it. Fair enough?

Would it help if I said that I'm really looking forward to the next issue?

Really!!

John A. Wilcox
40 Hales Court
Westport, CT 06880

This is in answer to all those letters from the members of the John A. Wilcox fan club who wanted to know when we were going to print our next John A. Wilcox fan letter so they could reserve extra copies ahead of time. This issue, okay?

S'ym (from X-men #160) cartoon #2 this time by John (give me an "a") Wilcox. Stay tuned for #3.

Dear Dave Sim

I didn't cry, but it was beautifully done. The smartest of men (and wimmin and aardvarks, yeah, yeah, too) will oft lead themselves astray. (But they can return to their senses, can't they? Maybe in time, maybe not, but they can, can't they?)

You broke my heart. Thank you.

P.S. I'm female.

P.P.S. Astoria's fantastic, particularly the no-nonsense way you draw her. I mean, there's the elf for people who have to have that sort of thing.

P.P.S. Your lesson in economics was priceless. "Never borrow more than you can pay the interest on." It's the reality of that remark that gives it it's bite.

Micky (Michelle) DuPree
41 Burnside #2
Somerville, MA 02144

What do you want to bet this is from a male fan who figured he could get a letter published by signing a female name. It worked, anyway.

Dear Dave and Deni

Hi. It's me again - and just when you thought it was safe to open the mail! I've sent along a couple of copies of CCC #2, complete with the promised CEREBUS article - though not in the format I had originally planned. The first article was on Dave's art style, but it was boring as hell, so I trashed it and did this one. There's also a capsule review of CEREBUS #36 in there somewhere.

What do you think of my first inking jobs ("Hell's Angel Harvey" and the third Harvey the Trout strip?) Can I start inking backgrounds in CEREBUS? Panel borders? Page numbers? Oh well.

Deni - thanks for your aside in your editorial. Aside from providing me with a lift of spirits (I saw it after spending five consecutive hours in a copy store making the first print run of the magazine and trucking a pile of them up to Comics & Comix), it provided several laughs the next Sunday when I was working behind the counter. "Are you Matt Denn? **The** Matt Denn from CEREBUS?!?"

What is this boycott of Matt Denn on the letters page? Granted, I'm not being greedy, but CEREBUS is the only magazine that I've ever written a favorable letter to without having it printed! Sure... R. Fiore, Stu Potts, David Stallman - is it a conspiracy against small press publishers? Or, hey, need another Mike Bannon? **No problem!** Can Cerebus sky-dive while chewing petrified fruit chews? (Note: the preceding has been a joke. Just in case you weren't sure.)

I'd love to know what you think of this issue if you have the time to dash off another letter. Seeing that I'm running out of space, I suppose it's time to say goodbye. Goodbye.

Matt Denn
611 Grizzly Peak Blvd.
Berkeley, CA 94708

I couldn't remember why I boycotted you from the letters page, Matt. Maybe you should've sent a Mike Bannon joke with your first letter.

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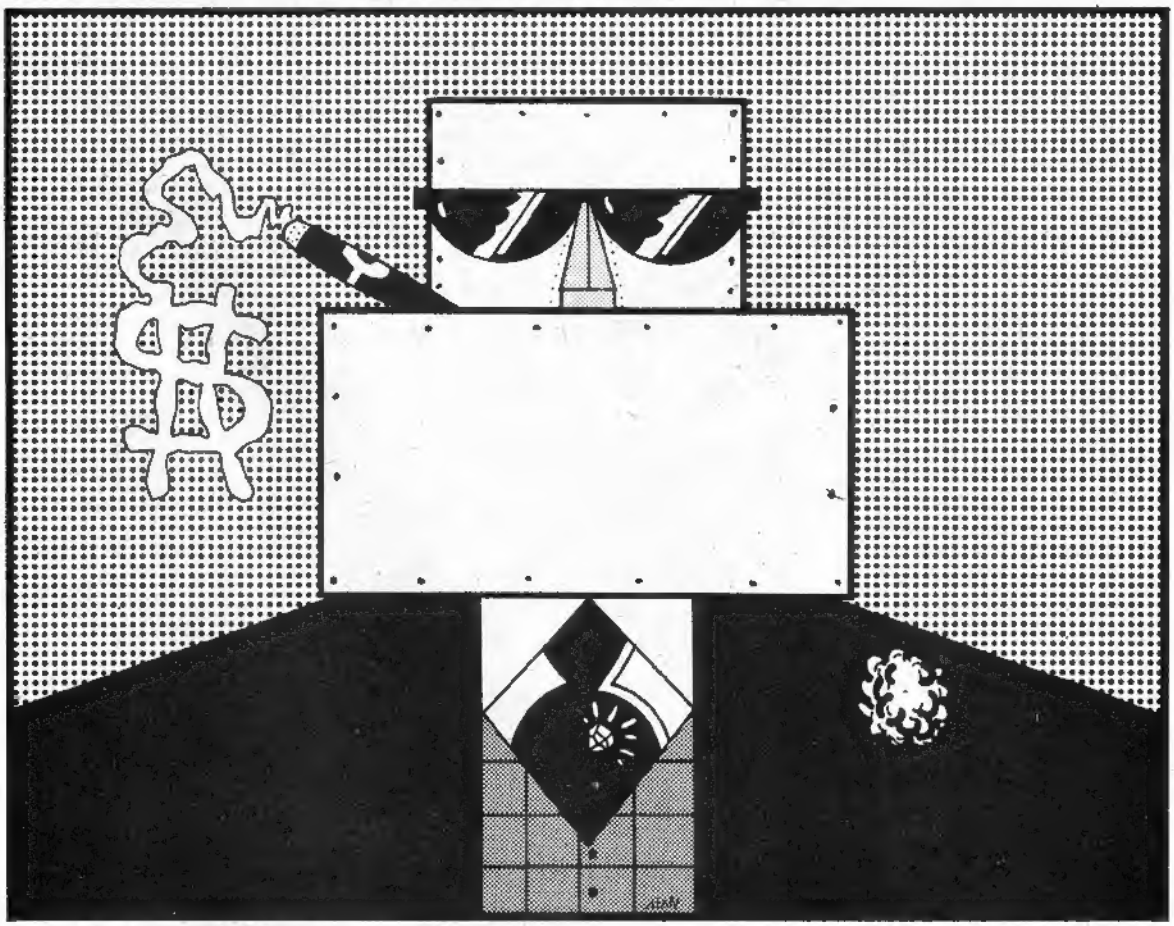

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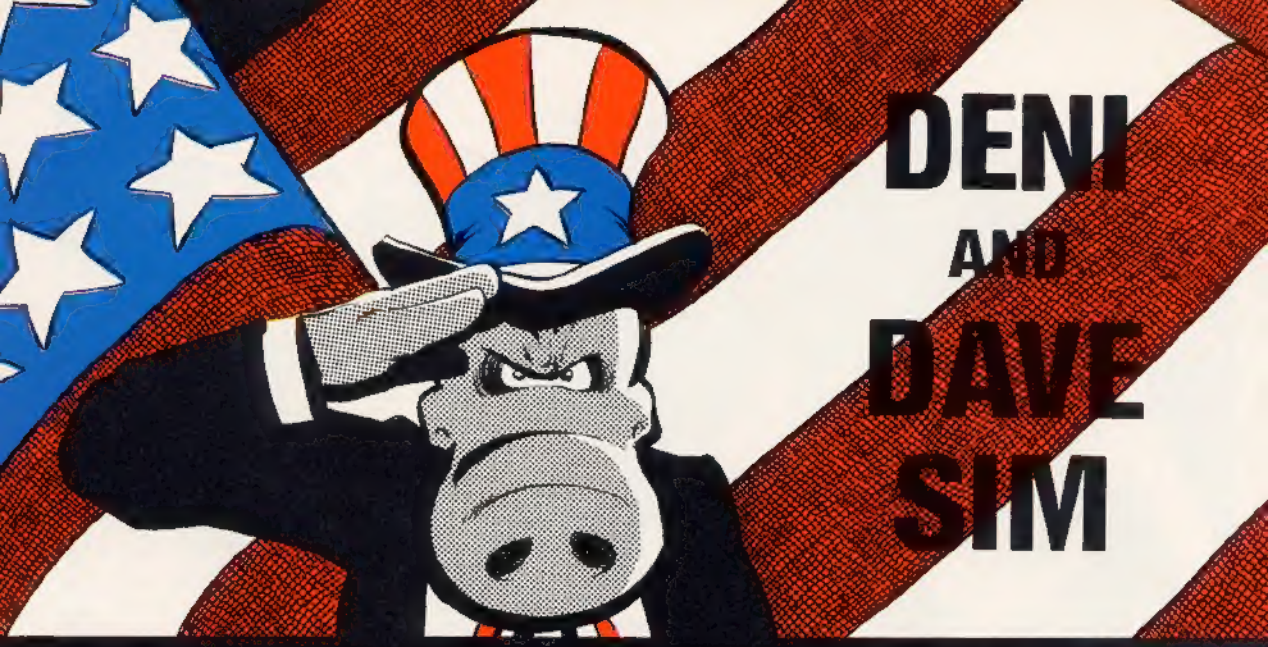

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Oct. 12 - Louisville, KY
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Oct. 13 - Richmond VA
"Nostalgia Plus"
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Oct. 14 - Atlanta, GA
"The Book Nook"
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Oct. 15 - Largo, FL
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